Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Water Resources Division
Water Rights Bureau

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
For Routine Actions with Limited Environmental Impact

Part I. Proposed Action Description

1. Applicant/Contact name and address: Gregory Ouellette, 430 Moose Creek Road, Polebridge, MT 59928

2. Type of action: Application for Beneficial Water Use Permit 30028784-76LJ

3. Water source name: Drilled Groundwater Well

4. Location affected by project: SE NW NW of section 1, T 35N, R 22W, Flathead County.

5. Narrative summary of the proposed project, purpose, action to be taken, and benefits: The applicant proposes to utilize a 120 foot deep drilled well to provide water to a home. The water will be pumped at a rate of 1 gpm with a hand pump with an annual volume of .17 acre-feet with the period of use being year round.

6. Agencies consulted during preparation of the Environmental Assessment: MT DEQ (include agencies with overlapping jurisdiction) The National Park Service is being notified per the Glacier National Park Compact requirement.

Part II. Environmental Review

1. Environmental Impact Checklist:

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

WATER QUANTITY, QUALITY AND DISTRIBUTION

Water quantity *- Assess whether the source of supply is identified as a chronically or periodically dewatered stream by DFWP. Assess whether the proposed use will worsen the already dewatered condition.*

Determination: NA. The source is groundwater.

Water quality *- Assess whether the stream is listed as water quality impaired or threatened by DEQ, and whether the proposed project will affect water quality.*

Determination: NA

Groundwater *- Assess if the proposed project impacts ground water quality or supply.*

If this is a groundwater appropriation, assess if it could impact adjacent surface water flows.

Determination: *The well will pump groundwater from the aquifer at a rate of 1 gpm. The well is drilled to a depth of 120 feet below ground surface and had a static level of 90 feet. No adverse impact to groundwater quality or quantity are anticipated as a result of this action.*

DIVERSION WORKS - *Assess whether the means of diversion, construction and operation of the appropriation works of the proposed project will impact any of the following: channel impacts, flow modifications, barriers, riparian areas, dams, well construction.*

Determination: All diversion works have already been installed. The well was drilled in 1984 by Stinger Drilling.

UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Endangered and threatened species - *Assess whether the proposed project will impact any threatened or endangered fish, wildlife, plants or aquatic species or any "species of special concern," or create a barrier to the migration or movement of fish or wildlife. For groundwater, assess whether the proposed project, including impacts on adjacent surface flows, would impact any threatened or endangered species or "species of special concern."*

Determination: Even though several species of special concern utilize this area for habitat, this action will create no migration barriers or anticipated adverse impact to said species.

Wetlands - *Consult and assess whether the apparent wetland is a functional wetland (according to COE definitions), and whether the wetland resource would be impacted.*

Determination: NA

Ponds - *For ponds, consult and assess whether existing wildlife, waterfowl, or fisheries resources would be impacted.*

Determination: NA

GEOLOGY/SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE - *Assess whether there will be degradation of soil quality, alteration of soil stability, or moisture content. Assess whether the soils are heavy in salts that could cause saline seep.*

Determination: The soil moisture level will improve as a result of this action. No areas of saline seep have been identified in this area.

VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY/NOXIOUS WEEDS - *Assess impacts to existing vegetative cover. Assess whether the proposed project would result in the establishment or spread of noxious weeds.*

Determination: It would be the applicant's responsibility to control any such weeds on his private property.

AIR QUALITY - *Assess whether there will be a deterioration of air quality or adverse effects on vegetation due to increased air pollutants.*

Determination: No impact

HISTORICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES - *Assess whether there will be degradation of unique archeological or historical sites in the vicinity of the proposed project.*

Determination: No historic sites were identified on the property.

DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AND ENERGY - *Assess any other impacts on environmental resources of land, water and energy not already addressed.*

Determination: None identified.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS - *Assess whether the proposed project is inconsistent with any locally adopted environmental plans and goals.*

Determination: The property appurtenant to this action is consistent with other developed lots in the area.

ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES - *Assess whether the proposed project will impact access to or the quality of recreational and wilderness activities.*

Determination: No impacts

HUMAN HEALTH - *Assess whether the proposed project impacts on human health.*

Determination: No impacts

PRIVATE PROPERTY - *Assess whether there are any government regulatory impacts on private property rights.*
*Yes___ No **XX**__ If yes, analyze any alternatives considered that could reduce, minimize, or eliminate the regulation of private property rights.*

Determination:

OTHER HUMAN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES - *For routine actions of limited environmental impact, the following may be addressed in a checklist fashion.*

Impacts on:

(a) *Cultural uniqueness and diversity?* None

(b) *Local and state tax base and tax revenues?* Some increase in revenues due to development.

(c) *Existing land uses?* Some changes due to development of the property.

(d) *Quantity and distribution of employment?* None.

(e) *Distribution and density of population and housing?* Slight

(f) *Demands for government services?* Slight

(g) *Industrial and commercial activity?* None

(h) *Utilities?* None at this time.

(i) *Transportation?* Slight to some depending upon how much the property is utilized.

(j) *Safety?* Some

(k) *Other appropriate social and economic circumstances?* None were identified as a result of this action.

2. *Secondary and cumulative impacts on the physical environment and human population:*

Secondary Impacts: This project does not appear to create any secondary impacts.

Cumulative Impacts: Over time, actions of this nature are bound to have some cumulative impacts when enough are developed. At this time no one knows when they will be measurable.

3. *Describe any mitigation/stipulation measures:* None seem to be justified at this time.

4. *Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative, if an alternative is reasonably available and prudent to consider:*

PART III. Conclusion

1. Preferred Alternative: The well is already drilled so this action will be the preferred.

2 ***Comments and Responses:*** The no action alternative would prevent the land owner from using this well to provide water to the home.

3 ***Finding:***

*Yes___ No_**XX**__ Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required?*

If an EIS is not required, explain <u>why</u> the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action: Because no cumulative or significant impacts were identified as a result of this action, the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for the action.

Name of person(s) responsible for preparation of EA:

Name: Wes McAlpin
Title: Water Resource Specialist, Kalispell RO, DNRC Water Resources
Date: September 11, 2007